



NEGLECTED—This corner of Lincoln avenue and Martha street, in the new Kettler Knolls tract, is rapidly deteriorating to a point where pavement soon will break up, residents complain, due to neglect in street cleaning. Rubbish, standing water, clay, dirt, and grass growing through the asphalt pavement are contributing to the condition which may prove costly to the taxpayers unless it is corrected. This is one of several instances where neglect has caused streets to break up. Several of the recently paved alleys of Torrance also are in a bad state of repair, due to neglect, it was said.—Press Photo

JACKSON'S SCHOOL BOARD POST GOES TO R. R. SMITH

Secrecy Veils Member Choice

Apparently renewing its "public be damned" policy of election days, the Board of Education in a special meeting appointed Rollin Smith, D.V.M., to the Board in place of Al Jackson, resigned. The appointment was supposed to have been made at a meeting on Nov. 21, and Board members were pledged to "secrecy" as to

who was going to be named. Nothing was supposed to be said on the "outside," word from the "inside" says. But word did get out and such a protest against Smith's appointment developed that it was delayed.

Opposition to Smith was based on the unfamiliarity of Smith with the Torrance school system, and with Torrance generally, and on the desire of citizens to see a business man appointed to give the Board of Education better balance. Smith has lived in Torrance only about three years, moving here from Hollywood.

A list of qualified business men was presented to Board members during the week. Sam Levy, who has made many friends through his ability to protect the taxpayers' money, headed the list.

But the protests were of no avail, and the determined Board named Smith. He takes the place of Jackson who rode into office in the school election last Spring as high man on the ballot because he was backed by the substantial elements of the community who wanted to see level-headed consideration of the multi-million dollars-a-year school spending projects.

Pinball Law Gains Final Sanction

Gaining final approval by the Council at Tuesday night's meeting was the pinball ordinance replacing an earlier one declared "too broad" by Judge Otto Willett's decision.

The new ordinance prohibits the possession in Torrance of "pin games," pinball games, and automatic pay-off machines in places of business or other places of public resort here.

The new ordinance also declares any such device and equipment to be a nuisance. Violation of the ordinance is punishable as a misdemeanor. The Council also adopted Ordinance 546 which repealed the original pinball ordinance declared "too broad" by the Court.

Roths Market Adds 5 Food Baskets to \$1000 Gold Rush

The \$1000 Gold Rush is booming as \$100 was given away at the event last Friday night and \$100 more to be given away at 7:00 p.m. this Friday night in front of Roth's Market, located at 1321 Post avenue, Torrance. Roth's Market will also offer five baskets of groceries as a special pre-Christmas addition to the Gold Rush event. Lucky winner of the \$100 last Friday night was Mrs. Dorothy Jackard of 20619 South Vermont avenue.

With four more weeks remaining of the \$1000 Gold Rush Event, sponsored by Torrance merchants, \$100 will be given away each Friday night of the remaining Gold Rush weeks. Numbers will be called until that of some lucky winner, present at the event, claims the booty.

Paul Diamond, chairman for Gold Rush Days, announced that tickets are available at leading merchants in Torrance, free of charge.

Psychologist Employed By School Board

Employed by the Board at their November 21 meeting as school psychologist for the 4,691 students in the Torrance Unified School system was Dr. David H. Fils.

Dr. Fils, who has had training at New York University, Columbia University, and University of Southern California, was employed as of November 27 for the annual salary rate of \$3,950, according to School Superintendent Dr. J. H. Hull.

Also with experience at Harbor Junior College, and at the Compton High School and Junior College, Dr. Fils has served about three years in the Army working in the psychology department. He has also worked at the Veterans Center at the University of California at Los Angeles, said Hull.

The Board also employed Cecil D. Alberts as an elementary teacher effective November 9, 1950, for the annual salary rate of \$2,850. Harry O. Walgren was employed as Groundsman - Gardener (temporary) as of November 10, 1950, for the salary of \$190 a month.

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Tillotson and Plomert, New Directors

Elected to the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce were W. T. Tillotson and R. I. Plomert. The final ballots were tabulated November 22, according to Russell Lund, chairman of the 1950 election committee.

Tillotson and Plomert were chosen of four qualifying for the primary ballots counted November 15. A third director will be appointed by the new Board of Directors at their first meeting in January.

There are nine members, altogether, on the Board of Directors, three new members being chosen each year, informed Lund.



DEMONSTRATING CHEST X-RAY technique on Al Ewalt is Dr. Allen Fyeatt, Ewalt is Chairman of the local Chest X-Ray unit to be here December 18-23. Fyeatt is publicity chairman. There will be three units located in downtown Torrance on those days during all hours of the business day.—Press Photo.

Fair Play TRAFFIC CONTROL

We have mentioned automobile parking restrictions and enforcement of the one-hour parking law in the central business district before, and we thought that misuse of police authority had been eliminated.

But, we are sorry to say, that is not true.

We do not know how many more "friends" the officer has throughout the town whom he favors with a stroke with the stick, but no mark of the chalk, but he has two on one street. A merchant reports that two cars of "buddies" (no doubt) of the officer are passed up each day. To prove the point, we assigned a reporter to watch the two cars involved, and this is the result:

On the morning run on Nov. 22, the officer marked every car on the street and made a "stroke" at Lincoln sedan 6X1252, and Ford coupe 1D8313. Investigation showed that neither car was marked. Again, at 1:50 p.m. on Nov. 22, the same procedure was followed, and neither car was marked. At 3:15 p.m., the Lincoln, parked there all day long, again was passed up, but the Ford meanwhile had been moved.

Thinking that perhaps the officer was just feeling "good" that day, we asked our reporter to check again on Nov. 24. Sure enough, on the morning run motions were made as if to mark the same two cars, but no marks were found. This was repeated at 1:55 p.m., and again at 3:11 p.m.

We do not know how many more "friends" are so favored, but we, the public, know that we are not. We pay the penalty for over-parking.

What's fair for one is fair for all. Either regulate parking properly, or not at all. There should be no favors nor favorites.

West Basin Growth Brings Water Crisis

Increased population in the West Basin area of Los Angeles County is seriously threatening the ground water supply of the area which even 10 years ago was being seriously damaged in inroads of salt water into underground streams, according to a report received by William Stanger, Torrance city water superintendent.

The population of the West Basin now is 269,288 persons against 124,519 10 years ago when the volume of water being pumped from the basin was nearly double the yearly natural water replenishment, the report stated.

Information gained from the operation of the water spreading test plot in West Torrance indicates that large scale water spreading in this locality is entirely feasible and one solution, it was said.

Operation of this test plot was discontinued Nov. 24, but the test plot on Imperial highway west of Los Angeles Municipal Airport will continue until Dec. 12. During the 12-month period just past, the West Basin area acquired 18,831 new residents and 6390 new dwelling units, it was said.

"Assuming an average daily (Continued on Page Eight)

New Lights, Decorations For Yuletide

Downtown Torrance will sparkle and glitter this Christmas with its Christmas decorations and new mercury vapor street lights.

The decorations are expected to be installed on December 1, said Herb Cohn, decoration chairman of the Retail Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce.

The last of the 20 new powerful mercury vapor street lights along Sartori and El Prado avenues will be installed by November 29.

Also to be enhanced, mainly for the children's benefit, will be the two triangle parks; one at Torrance blvd. and Sartori avenue and the other at Sartori avenue and Cabrillo avenue.

A display of Santa Claus with his reindeer and snow will be here to greet all incomers to Torrance, said Cohn.

High School 'Campus Capers' Friday Nite

Torrance High school student and faculty talent will combine to put on "Campus Capers," a big musical review. The curtain will rise at 8 p. m. Dec. 1 on the stage of the Torrance High school auditorium.

The show will include a 20-piece orchestra and Dixieland Combo band, sketches, instrumentalists, singers, dancers, and comedians.

Highlight of the evening will be a skit put on by the faculty. Student director, Jo Ann Benard; producer, Dilla Cooper; choreographer, Ann Olsen; stage manager, Dwight Hanna; musical director, Harold Dunn; costumes, Zola Belwood, and faculty advisor, Dan Desmond will work together to make this show a success.

The Tartar Theater Guild, Boys' League, and the Girls' League will jointly sponsor this program. There will be a matinee on Friday, and a Friday evening performance at 8 o'clock; 50c general admission and 75c for reserved seats.

Tickets may be obtained in the lobby of Benson's store, 1271 Sartori.

Early and Correct Christmas Mailing Urged by Post Office

Postmaster Clara A. Connor issued her annual appeal today for correct addressing and early mailing of Christmas greetings and gifts. The Postmaster predicted that this year's flood of Christmas mail will break 1949's high, when a record 1,500,486 pieces of holiday mail were cancelled locally. "Handling this huge volume of Christmas mail will tax post office facilities to the limit," she stated. "But we will get everything delivered by Christmas if we receive the full cooperation of the public." Christmas packages for distant points should be mailed by December 2, the Postmaster advised. Christmas gifts for nearby points should be at the parcel post windows by December 9.

Torrance Tax Rate Doubles

The combined tax rate Torrance property owners have to pay has almost doubled in the past 20 years, and the increase here is in a much greater proportion than in other cities, a survey by the Press reveals.

The combined rate for this year (in most instances) is \$6.4489 per \$100 assessed valuation. The rate in 1930 was only \$3.26.

The principal cause of the increase in Torrance rate is the cost of the schools, including El Camino College, under the new Torrance school setup adopted in 1949.

Neighboring cities have not had the increase which Torrance has suffered, but that perhaps is due to the tremendous advantage Torrance has had in its assessed valuation based on its industrial wealth.

Redondo Beach, for instance, has a combined rate this year of \$7.4787, while in 1930, the Redondo rate was only \$3.26.

The union has given the employers who operate under the Mercantile Contract, which expires January 31, 1951, notice of the desire of the clerks to reopen the agreement.

At the meeting on Wednesday night of next week, employers' proposals for the new agreement will be discussed in full, and a negotiating committee will be elected, Selover said.

Categories included in the Mercantile Contract include: Ready-to-wear and specialty shops; men's wear; alterations; women's wear; stock clerks; (Continued on Page Eight)

Funeral of Traffic Victim Tomorrow

Set for tomorrow at 2 p. m. at a local mortuary are funeral services for Mrs. Grace Bartholomew, 60, of 1524 Acacia street, Torrance. Mrs. Bartholomew was a victim of a traffic accident last Saturday night in Long Beach.

William Bartholomew, her husband, was seriously injured when a car struck both of them at Seventh street and Linden avenue. Mrs. Bartholomew was dead on arrival at Seaside hospital, Long Beach police said.

Entombment of Mrs. Bartholomew will be at Angeles Abbey mausoleum in Compton.

She was a member of the Torrance Woman's club, the Warren, Ohio chapter, Order of Eastern Star; Torrance Delphian society, and Torrance First Christian church. She leaves, besides her husband, a daughter, Margaret Bird of Compton; a son, Charles of Torrance; grandchildren, Patricia and Judith Bird, Karen and William of Torrance.

Lions 'Broom' Sale Profits Gets Local Children Glasses

With five children already set up for glasses from the Lions Club "Brooms For the Blind" sale profits, the Lions Club will probably plan to make this an annual affair, said Alan Klatzker, chairman of the sale. The sale was held in Torrance Friday, November 17.

Klatzker said that the sale was such a success that the club will probably be able to provide a few children, badly in need of glasses but unable to afford it, with glasses each month of the year.

NEW SEWERS ORDERED IN NORTH AREA

Residents of North Torrance in the area near 182nd street and Hawthorne boulevard are going to get relief from their cesspool problems, as the City Council Tuesday night took steps to form a sewer district to serve the many new homes there.

Complaints from residents of one tract that cesspools were caving in were voiced a few weeks ago, and investigation resulted in the decision to install sanitary sewers.

After a hearing on the South Torrance sewer district formation, the Council took action to go ahead with the work at once.

The Council also moved to bring about the improvement of 174th street, a state secondary highway, from Western avenue to Hawthorne boulevard.

Ambulance Delay Gets New Protest

After refusal by the City Council to install the service, Torrance citizens again are pressing for emergency ambulance service run by the Fire Department. Petitions now are being circulated requesting the service here.

To illustrate the great need for an emergency ambulance service in this industrial and residential city of 25,000 population, Mrs. C. E. McNew of 1634 Acacia avenue, cited that after an accident last Sunday night at Torrance boulevard and Crenshaw boulevard, an injured man and woman were kept waiting nearly an hour until the out-of-town ambulance arrived.

The Press, in its Oct. 12 issue, stated the need for an emergency ambulance in Torrance, and suggested that the fire department be in charge of it. In a later edition, the Press revealed the results of an investigation which showed that an emergency ambulance service is being very successfully run by the Long Beach fire department.

Realizing the need for the (Continued on Page Eight)

Remodeling Planned for Police Station

The Torrance Police Station is going to get its badly needed remodeling with three new rooms added.

Adopted by the Council last Tuesday night was a resolution to remodel the police station with the three added rooms for a sum not to exceed \$5,000.

At a Council meeting two weeks ago, Chief of Police John Stroh reminded the Council, in a letter, of the need for a larger, cleaner police station.

Funeral Rites For Drowned Woman Held

Funeral services were held last Friday at a Los Angeles mortuary for Mrs. Gertrude Sobelman, 46, of 1648 W. 203rd street, Torrance.

Mrs. Sobelman allegedly drowned herself about 9:30 a.m. last Monday morning in the surf at Redondo Beach. The alarm of the woman's drowning was first turned in by two 15-year-old South Bay school boys, when they were attracted by the woman's screams as she struggled in the waves back of Redondo Public Library. A rescue attempt was almost impossible as she screamed and went down almost at once. With no identification on her, a laundry mark on a jacket she had abandoned on the beach was traced to reveal her identity. (Continued on Page Eight)

County Chest X-Ray Unit In Torrance Dec. 18-23

People in the Torrance area will soon be able to take advantage of the Chest X-Ray Mobile Unit, now circulating in the Los Angeles area.

According to Dr. Allen Fyeatt, publicity chairman of the campaign in Torrance, the X-Ray Unit, sponsored by the Los Angeles County Tuberculosis and Health Association, will be in the Torrance area Dec. 18 through Dec. 23 at all hours of the business day. There will be three locations in downtown Torrance, one in Waverly, and one in North Torrance. Roth's Market, Torrance National Bank, and Daniels Cafe are the three downtown locations.

Dr. Fyeatt also announced that this X-ray service is free of charge to the public. He hopes for 100 per cent public participation in the local X-ray campaign.

Chosen at the Nov. 15 meeting of representatives of all Torrance service clubs, held in the Torrance High school auditorium, were chairman for the local Chest X-Ray Campaign.

The chairman for the campaign are: Honorary chairman, Mayor Bob Haggard; chairman of committees, Al Ewalt; co-chairman from Waverly, George Powell; co-chairman from North Torrance, Willys Blount; locations chairman, J. C. Helphand; coordinator of church campaign, the Rev. C. J. England; school coordinator, Dr. J. H. Hull; publicity coordinator, Dr. J. H. Hull; (Continued on Page Eight)